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SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST ISSUE IN SECURITY COUNCIL

1. PAK PRESS OF JANUARY 11 CARRIES REPORT FROM "OFFICIAL SOURCES" OF GOP STAND, AS SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER, ON MID-EAST ISSUE. REPORT STATES THAT GOP IS IN TOUCH WITH ARAB COUNTRIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE ITS POSITION ON SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST. SIGNIFICANT POINTS, AS REPORTED BY PAKISTAN TIMES, AS FOLLOWS:

A. AT PRESENT NO AGREED FRAMEWORK EXISTS WITHIN WHICH A COMPREHENSIVE AND LASTING SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED. RESOLUTION 242 REFERS TO SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN "REFUGEES". ARAB STATES AND PLO RIGHTLY CONSIDER REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN QUESTION AS BEING MERELY A HUMANITARIAN ONE NOT CONSISTENT WITH DICTATES OF JUSTICE OR WITH EVOLUTION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN MID-EAST SINCE 1967. A SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS ESSENTIAL ISSUE IN FINAL SETTLEMENT OF MID-EAST CONFLICT, AND ANY REALISTIC INTERPRETATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 HAS TO INCLUDE FULFILLMENT OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

B. THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH APPEARS TO HAVE EXHAUSTED POSSIBILITIES TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO TOTALITY

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OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. ALL SIGNS INDICATE THAT MOMENT HAS COME TO FIND A SOLUTION, ON BASIS OF

ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
INCLUDING JERUSALEM, WHICH ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT
NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (AS INCOR-
PORATED IN THE 29TH UNGA RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE).

C. FORTHCOMING DEBATE CONTAINS CONSTRUCTIVE
POSSIBILITIES FOR A FUNDAMENTAL ADVANCE ON THE ISSUE OF
PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS BUT ONLY IF ARAB COUNTRIES
ARE UNITED IN THEIR APPROACH, AND IF PLO PARTICIPATES
ON AN EQUAL BASIS.

D. PAKISTAN WILL DO ALL THAT IT CAN TO PROMOTE
ARAB CONSENSUS AND HOPES THAT ITS EFFORTS IN THE SECURITY
COUNCIL WITH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STATES ON A JOINT BASIS
WILL LEAD TO FORMULATION OF A RESOLUTION WHICH A
MAJORITY CAN ADOPT. PAKS HAVE IN MIND LIBYA BENIN,
TANZANIA (AND HOPEFULLY) OTHERS LIKE JAPAN, GUYANA,
ROMANIA, AND HOPE FOR WIDER COLLABORATION WITH
COUNTRIES LIKE ITALY AND SWEDEN AS WELL AS PERMANENT
MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. COMMENT: PAKS, WHO ATTEMPT TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN
ISSUES WHICH INVOLVE ARAB DISAGREEMENT, ARE OBVIOUSLY
CONCERNED THAT THERE BE UNANIMITY IN ARAB CAMP
ON THIS ISSUE. THEY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT
WHATEVER THEY READ AS ARAB CONSENSUS.

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